



TOWN OF

# KENSINGTON

## NOVEMBER 2001 *JOURNAL*

### November 26<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting Agenda

Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. for Wake Drive Speed Bump  
Public hearing at 7:30 p.m. for No Parking Signs on Frederick Avenue

### Meeting Schedule

December 3, 7:00 p.m. Work Session  
December 17, 7:30 p.m. Town Meeting

### Emergency Preparedness

The County is now in the process of mailing the updated ***Home Guide to Emergency Preparedness*** to all County households. It contains updated emergency information and contacts. PLEASE SAVE THIS DOCUMENT AND KEEP IT IN A CONVENIENT LOCATION.

#### Family Disaster & Emergency Preparedness Class

The County's Office of Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Services has scheduled a class to help residents prepare for emergencies on November 28, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. For more information or to register, call (240) 777-2300.

Contact us at 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895  
Phone: 301-949-2424 Fax: 301-949-4925; E-mail: [mayor.council@tok.org](mailto:mayor.council@tok.org); Website: [www.tok.org](http://www.tok.org)

## Mark Your Calendars

November 22, 23: Town Office will be closed for Thanksgiving.  
No Trash Pickup on Friday, November 23.

## Warning!

Do not open your door to strangers. There have been recent incidents in Town.

## Reminders

Be courteous to your neighbors, Quiet hours are in effect weekdays 9 p.m. – 7 a.m. and weekends/holidays 9 p.m. – 9 a.m.

Please keep shrubs and trees trimmed so they don't overhang on public sidewalks.

Pick up after your pet, It's the law.

Do not put waste/recycling containers curbside until the evening before pick-up.

Remove waste/recycling containers from curb side after pick-up.

Mixed paper recycling items must be placed in a paper bag curbside by 7 a.m. each Wednesday. The following items are acceptable: paper back books, newspaper inserts, telephone books, magazines, computer and office paper, corrugated cardboard, cereal and other boxes, unwanted mail, and catalogs. The following items will not be accepted: Styrofoam or plastic, food soiled paper, plastic or wax coated liners, beverage containers, foil gift wrap, waxed paper, carbon paper, paper towels, napkins or tissues, and hard backed books.

## Announcements

The Town is seeking volunteers to serve as citizens of the Town on the Coalition of Kensington Communities. The Coalition of Kensington Communities is a unified body of area civic associations and townships founded to enhance the quality of life in our community. Please contact the Town Office if you are interested at (301) 949-2424.

The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission has changed the address for the buildings located on Frederick Avenue that formerly had an incorrect Kensington Parkway address. A letter was sent to the Mayor requesting the change be made and it was forwarded to the Commission since they are responsible for this. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Fred Flaherty at (301) 495-4610 or Bob Hall at (301) 495-2116.

## Building Permits

New Fence at 3709 Dupont Avenue

## Mayor's Report

*Howard Avenue*

Phase II is almost complete; the benches are installed, trees and shrubs have been planted. The clock is installed and we are waiting for PEPCO to connect the electricity. Now that

the project is almost complete we are receiving many compliments from the Town citizens.

*Metropolitan Avenue*  
Still planned for spring of 2002

*Cement Plant*

The Mayor is still working with Montgomery County Department of Public Works and the State of Maryland Department of Transportation to coordinate the plans for reuse of the site after the plant closes in March of 2002.

*Train Station*

At the Mayor's request, MARC is going to paint the train station before winter sets in.

*Banner Committee*

Meeting was held in September to discuss banners on Howard Avenue. The committee decided it would be more attractive to have hanging baskets from the light poles instead of banners behind the wall on Howard Avenue. Montgomery County Commercial Revitalization Manager, Dee Metz, is gathering more information for us.

*War Memorial*

Hopefully the Memorial in Ernest Park will be installed in November. A rededication is planned on Memorial Day, 2002.

*Labor Day and 8K Race*

Both of these events were held in September and both were chaired by Jenny Smith. Jenny did a wonderful job on our two major Town events. Each year the 8K Race is a great success due to Jenny Smith's dedication and management skills. The Labor Day Parade was better than ever. Jenny does a great job as a special event coordinator. The Town office was happy to see her smiling face throughout the summer as she worked on these two events.

A big thank you to Jenny Smith for her dedication to the Town of Kensington.

Thank you to Rodger Lund and Ken Duggin for spear heading efforts to help the Red Cross, after the September 11 tragedy occurred at the Pentagon. These two business men are great volunteers in our Town.

*Meetings and Events Attended by the Mayor*

- The Mayor attended a Maryland Municipal League Board of Directors Meeting in Rocky Gap, Maryland two days in September.
- The Mayor attended a Legislative Conference in College Park this month for three days.
- The Mayor attended the Chamber of Commerce Award Dinner in Wheaton this month.
- The Mayor and Council Member Chris Bruch met with a DHCA representative to discuss the funds that were to be appropriated for ADA compatible bathrooms on the second floor (drill hall level) of the Community Center.

- The Mayor attended a ceremony in Annapolis at MML Headquarters to honor Elizabeth Tolbert of Barnesville. Mrs. Tolbert retired as Mayor of Barnesville this year. She had been an active and well respected elected official in Montgomery County for many years.
- The Mayor attended Guideline's for Public Skating Facilities in Municipalities hosted by LGIT.

## Council Member Bruch's Report

Driveway Improvement Program Update – Sorry but if you haven't signed up, the program is closed to new participants. All residents who did sign up should have received a proposal from the Contractor.

Attended the rededication of Kensington Fire Station No. 5 on October 14<sup>th</sup>, and presented the President with a Town of Kensington flag. Now more than ever I think we recognize the daily risks that fire and rescue personnel take to protect us and I expressed our thanks for the 107 years of service KVFD has provided to the Town. [FYI – The fire station now has a large function room that is available for community use including birthday parties].

Attended a meeting at the Armory/Community Center with the Mayor, architect, MC-Historical Preservation Commission, MD- Historic Trust, and the contractor to review a sample restored window. The sample was approved and all of the window repairs should be completed before winter. FYI – 95% of these project costs are being funded by a grant from the State of Maryland.

The Mayor and I met with the Department of Housing and Community Affairs officials to discuss funding alternatives for the Armory/Community Center ADA Restroom Renovation Project.

If the Town recently planted a new street tree in front of your home or business, please help keep it watered this fall.

## Council Member Cowan's Report

- Completed review of proposed Employee Manual and prepared comments for discussion by the Mayor and Council.
- After review and research, proposed changes in the contract documents submitted by the bus shelter vendor to be discussed by the Mayor and Council.
- Worked with a strategic planner at FEMA, Bret Gates of Baltimore Street, to prepare initial recommendations on TOK emergency preparedness.
- Continued review of traffic calming options and results of past traffic enforcement measures.

## Council Member Pfautz's Report

Attended ground-breaking ceremony at Temple Emanuel for their new addition and renovation.

Continued follow-up on County Council bill 29-01 Historic District – Notice to Buyers. The bill would require that a prospective buyer of an historic property indicate, by signing an addendum to the real estate contract that: the seller has informed the buyer that the property is within an historic district or is designated historic and that the buyer understands that special restrictions on land uses and physical changes may apply to the property, and the buyer may obtain more information about these restrictions

from the staff of the County Historic Preservation Commission. The bill was approved by the Planning, Housing & Economic Development Committee on October 8<sup>th</sup>. It will go to final reading on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Attended Maryland Municipal League Legislative Conference on October 18<sup>th</sup>. While at the Conference, attended an excellent program on Open Meetings. The Maryland Municipal League is an excellent resource for municipalities!

## Council Member Scharman's Report

Emergency Preparedness: Attended a Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Workshop conducted by Montgomery County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) on October 27. This workshop covered four basic steps of emergency preparedness for households: identification of risks, planning for emergencies, preparing emergency supplies, and practicing the plan. The recent bioterrorist attacks were discussed followed by a detailed presentation of how to prepare for any type of emergency and the need for community outreach. Also had discussions with the OEM Program Coordinator and Program Manager as well as the Mayor and Town Clerk concerning municipalities' role in preparedness and public outreach.

All County residents are urged to prepare themselves, their families and households for emergencies including natural disasters such as weather-related emergencies, transportation-related accidents involving possible chemical spills and releases, and potential terrorist attacks. Emergency planning is not new and is something the OEM has always promoted, however, there is obviously a heightened interest in insuring that all County residents know how to prepare.

Maryland Municipal League (MML): Attended the MML's Fall Convention in College Park, going to sessions on Maryland's Open Meetings Law, Parliamentary Procedures and Effective Council Meetings, and Roundtable and Group Discussions on MML's annual legislative agenda. This agenda included discussion of undergrounding of utilities, sewer infrastructure funding, and municipal planning and zoning authority.

Parks Survey: Reviewed Parks Surveys returned thus far by Town residents. The information from the surveys will be useful for ongoing park maintenance and improvements. Some of the information will be useful in submissions in support of grant applications submitted to upgrade equipment and facilities at our parks.

Personnel Policy: Provided additional comments to Council Member Cowan and the Mayor regarding personnel policies to be included in the Town's Employee Manual.

## Town Meeting

October 29, 2001

Mayor Raufaste called the Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with Council Members Bruch, Cowan, Pfautz, Scharman, Director of Public Works Joel and Clerk-Treasurer Engels present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Mayor introduced a Moment of Silence which was observed for the tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion of the Storm Water Resolution was put on hold until the next work session, or until sufficient information is obtained from the County. Council Member Bruch stated that there were three areas of concern: approval of new construction and design, maintenance of storm water structures, and control of the storm water system we own.

The Tree Lighting Committee presented their ideas for the Holiday Event. Due to the renewed sense of patriotism, they proposed incorporating patriotism into the event including lighting the tree with red, white, and blue lights, having local heroes present, and having the Levine School play patriotic music. They

thought this would make it a more inclusive event which the whole Town could come together and enjoy. The Mayor introduced the idea of a Peace Banner for children in Town to place any ornaments they made. Some residents expressed concerns regarding religion and Santa Claus in the Holiday Event.

The Council was asked if the Town was going to hire off duty police officers for patrolling streets for traffic. Council Member Pfautz stated funds were allocated under traffic calming but specific use had not been approved. Council Member Cowan stated that the Town needs to find out the results of the County's study and the effectiveness of intermittent enforcement. The traffic committee will be convened to discuss this.

The Mayor and Council presented monthly reports.

#### *Council Actions*

Council Member Bruch moved to approve the minutes of the August 27 Town Meeting and Work Session, September 4 Work Session, and October 1 Work Session as circulated. It was seconded by Council Member Cowan and passed unanimously.

The Mayor requested confirmation of the appointments of John Anderson to serve on the Tree Committee and Jeff Capron to serve on the Audit Committee. Council Member Bruch moved to approve the appointments. It was seconded by Council Member Scharman, and passed unanimously.

Council Member Pfautz moved to support the final proposal by the Tree Lighting Committee with a Peace Banner instead of a Peace Tree and without Santa Claus for this year only. It was seconded by Council Member Cowan and passed unanimously.

The Council decided to postpone the No Parking restrictions on Frederick Avenue until it is discussed at the November work session and a public hearing held. Flyers will be delivered to residents on Frederick Avenue informing them of this.

Council Member Pfautz moved to reallocate funds in the 2000/2001 fiscal year budget by decreasing the public works salary line item by 38,600 and increasing administrative pension by 10,800 and the public works pension by 27,800. It was seconded by Council Member Bruch and passed unanimously.

The Mayor and Council decided to continue to be listed on the Annex D – Mass Care of the County's Emergency Operations Plan and that the Mayor would be the appointed disaster assistance representative.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

## Work Session of Mayor & Council

November 5, 2001

The work session commenced at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Bruch, Cowan, Pfautz and Scharman, Director of Public Works Joel, Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present and the following issues were addressed:

Guest speaker, Leslie McDowell, President of the Kensington Estates Civic Association gave a presentation on the newly created Coalition of Kensington Communities. The following civic associations have agreed to participate in the new Coalition: Rock Creek Hills Civic Association, Kensington Estates Civic Association, KenGar Civic Association and Parkwood Residents Association. McDowell stated that they would like the Town of Kensington to join the Coalition and that it would be a way to exchange information,

concerns, ideas and work together as a unified group to address common interests affecting the greater Kensington area. The Mayor and Council Member Cowan stated that citizens from the Town should have representation with the Coalition but the Town Government should not. Council Member Cowan anticipated conflicts of interest could arise between the Town Government and the Coalition. The Mayor and Council concluded that an announcement would be put in the next Journal asking if any citizens from the Town would like to volunteer for the Coalition. The citizens on the Coalition would be able to bring information back to the Council at Town Meetings but would not have the power to make decisions on behalf of the Town Government.

The Mayor stated that she has been in contact with County Council Member Steve Silverman regarding the HOC gymnasium and that she will be meeting with him and a small group of concerned citizens. Reopening the HOC gymnasium is one consideration that will be discussed, however, there are storage problems associated with this. Council Member Bruch suggested that one of our Kensington storage companies could provide a more cost-effective solution for storage.

The proposed No Parking signs on Frederick Avenue were discussed. Flyers have been delivered to residents on Frederick Avenue informing them that No Parking Signs are being considered and that a public hearing will be held on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Mayor and Council will observe the current parking situation on Frederick Avenue before the proposed hearing on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Project list was reviewed and updated.

Director of Public Works Joel informed the Council that brush would be taken to a landfill in Laurel that is closer and less expensive than the current Howard County site.

Council Member Bruch discussed the Storm Water Management issue. The Maryland Department of Environment has new regulations that municipal and county governments must comply with. The Town has had its own Storm Water Management ordinance for several years. When it was originally adopted it was sufficient, but needs to be brought up to current standards or the responsibility needs to be transferred to the County. The County currently has responsibility for everything under Chapter 19 of their Code except Storm Water Management. Because of new regulations, the condition and age of our system, and the generation of storm water from outside the Town, Council Member Bruch stated that it may be in the best interest of the Town to transfer to the County control of the Storm Water Management and Storm Drains. Council Member Bruch suggested the next step would be to find out if other small municipalities, in a similar situation, are interested in collectively discussing this with the County. Also, the Town needs to determine the amount of tax revenue that would be lost if this is transferred to the County.

Two bus shelters are still being considered. Council Member Bruch is obtaining funding information from the County and State so that the new bus shelters could be put in the two locations designed similar to Culver Amhurst plan but without advertising.

The code enforcement action list was reviewed

Minutes from the October 29 Town Meeting were reviewed.

The monthly correspondence was reviewed.

The Council received the revised Sunoco light plan and will rely on the County for their review.

The Council reviewed the new web site contract and proposed it to be amended to include a 30-day notice for cancellation.

The Council addressed a complaint of loud music at St. Paul Park. The Council believes this is an isolated/infrequent problem; however, Council Member Bruch stated that the next time it occurs he should be called and he will speak with whoever is playing the loud music to resolve this.

Council Member Scharman proposed that a resolution/proclamation be written similar to the House of Representatives resolution which honored first responders to emergencies, expressed sympathy, and encouraged all levels of government to work together to be used at the tree lighting event.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.